



March 15, 2012

Representative Elizabeth B. Ritter  
Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Public Health  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3004  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Re: Opposition to Senate Bill 370 Unless Amended

Dear Chairwoman Ritter:

I am writing on behalf of the Connecticut Society of Pathologists (CSP) and the College of American Pathologists (CAP) in opposition to Senate Bill 370 (SB 370), "An Act Concerning Services Provided By Genetic Counselors", unless amended. The CSP is a state medical specialty society representing many practicing pathologists in the state. CAP is a national medical specialty society, representing 18,000 physicians who practice clinical and anatomic pathology (laboratory medicine) in community hospitals, independent clinical laboratories, academic medical centers, and federal and state health facilities.

Our organizations have serious concern with the definition of "Supervising Genetic Counselor" as currently defined in SB 370. This legislation states that a certified genetic counselor (i.e. assistant genetic counselor), is not prohibited under Chapter 370 (Medicine and Surgery) from providing genetic counseling services if under the direct supervision of a supervising genetic counselor, which we do not oppose. However, SB 370 defines supervising genetic counselor as a physician who is ".....certified as a genetic counselor by the American Board of Genetic Counseling," which we do oppose.

The CSP and CAP believe the definition requiring a supervising genetic counselor to obtain a certification from American Board of Genetic Counseling (ABGC) to supervise a genetic counselor as an unnecessary and excessively restrictive requirement for physicians. As you know, physicians provide genetic counseling services as permitted under Chapter 370. In fact, as the clinical utility of these services, including genetic testing continue to evolve, it is important that physicians continue to ensure that proper genetic information is clinically interpreted and integrated with other clinical information into decisions pertaining to overall care of Connecticut patients. We believe it is unprecedented for a state law to require certification by a licensed physician to supervise an allied health professional in providing these services. Therefore, we respectfully request the committee to consider the following amendment that strikes the certification language from Section 1(a)(3) in Senate Bill 370:

(3) "Supervising genetic counselor" means a physician who is licensed pursuant to chapter 370 of the general statutes, ~~certified as a genetic counselor by the American Board of Genetic Counseling~~ and who assumes responsibility for the supervision of services rendered by an assistant genetic counselor; and

We ask the committee to consider our proposed amendment to ensure that Connecticut patients receive quality genetic counseling services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "William G. Frederick, MD, PhD". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the last name "Frederick" being the most prominent part.

William G. Frederick, MD, PhD  
President, Connecticut Society of Pathologists

Cc: Ken Ferrucci, Connecticut State Medical Society